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EXCISE

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Date: ...

ACTION: Amembassy PARIS 6531

INFO: Amembassy TEL AVIV 311
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EXDIS

PARIS FOR EMBASSY AND DEFREPNAMA

Our 1254 to Tel Aviv, rptd Paris 6275; Our 1268 to Tel Aviv, rptd Paris 6377; Our 1295 to Tel Aviv, pouched Paris, London

JOINT STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE

[redacted] US commitment and position outlined in Deptel 1254 and does not require delivery until after January 1, 1967. Considered very important to divert Israeli aircraft requests to European suppliers. Thus, we are again asking Embassy London to discuss with British. Also desirable to solicit information and assistance from French unless Embassy considers counter-productive.

Therefore, suggest [redacted] approach appropriate French officials if considered useful with a view to:

a. Determining availability of various models of Vautour for sale to Israel possibly after being equipped with UK Rolls-Royce Spey engine. Also need to know cost of Vautour. (FYI: Best estimates here suggest Vautour

Drafted by: OSD:ISA:DPEvans:rvc 6/17/65 | Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by: NEA - Phillips Talbot

NE - Mr. Nyerges | EE - Mr. Davis | Air Force Mr. Hilbert
S/S - [illegible] | Mr. Walsh
EUR/RNA - Mr. Judd | [illegible]

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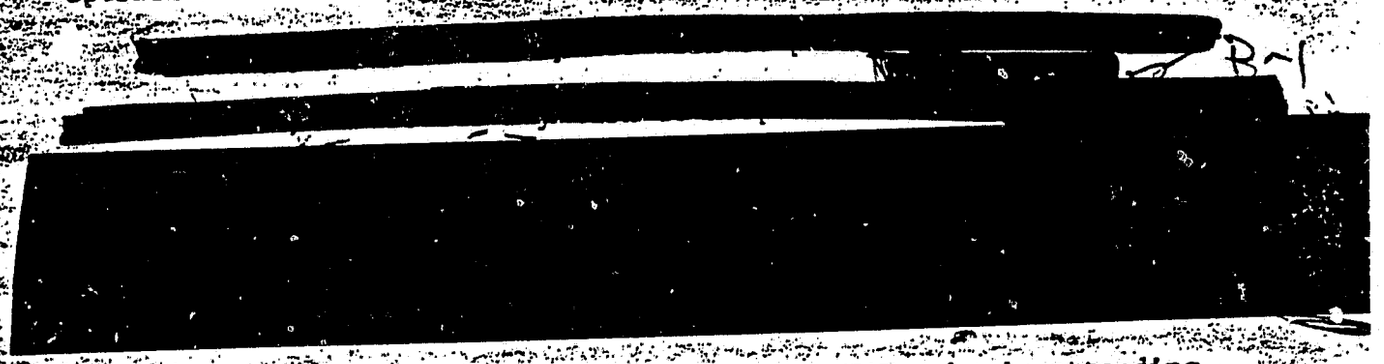
Vautour will be replaced by Mirage in next two years and flyaway cost between $500,000 and $600,000 each. Vautour with or without Spey engine appears to have considerable advantage in that Israelis already familiar with aircraft, which has most of the performance characteristics needed, and should be available in relatively near future. END FYI.)

b. Determining whether other French aircraft might be suitable and available to Israel. Our information indicates Mirage III E (or possibly Mirage III F-2 under development) might best provide long range and high speed for low level deep penetration combined with fighting capability. Israeli emphasis on US F-4 and willingness to wait until 1970 indicates Israel looking for aircraft with longer operational life.



DOD has asked Lt. Col. John W. Farr, HQ USAF, who is attending Paris air show, to discuss these matters with appropriate Embassy and DEFREPNAMA officials.

GP-3 END

RUSK